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WHEAT EXPORT
FORECAST

The U.S. wheat and wheat products export forecast by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for 1988/89 was lowered to 36 million 700 thousand tons from June's forecast of 40 million 800 thousand tons. As of July 14, wheat, excluding products, shipments and sales for 1988/89 totaled 10 million 500 thousand tons, compared to 12 million 500 thousand tons at the same time last year. U.S. shipments and sales have increased 2 million 100 thousand tons from last month. The leading buyers were Japan, Egypt, South Korea, Peru and Bolivia.

U.S. EXPORT
FORECAST -
CORN

The July U.S. Department of Agriculture corn export estimate for 1987/88 remained unchanged at 43 million 200 thousand tons. The 1988/89 forecast was decreased to 41 million 900 thousand tons from 44 million 500 thousand tons. Corn shipments and sales for the current marketing year, 1987/88, totaled 44 million tons as of July 16. This is 5 million 200 thousand tons higher than last year at this time. The leading buyers for 1987/88 during the month were the USSR, Japan, Taiwan, and Mexico.

RAIN SLOWS
USSR HARVEST

Rainy weather accompanied by strong winds is impeding the early grain harvest in European USSR this year. As of July 18, small grains and pulses were cut on 14 million 900 thousand hectares, of which 9 million 800 thousand million were threshed, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Despite the unfavorable conditions, some areas are reporting excellent winter grain yields.

U.S. CORN
TO USSR

The USSR has purchased nearly 900,000 tons of U.S. corn in the past few weeks for 1987/88 delivery, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Usually at this time of the year, the Soviets are buying recently harvested Argentine corn. This year Argentina has little corn available for export.

NEW SOFT
WINTER WHEAT
FROM AG RESEARCH

Two new varieties of disease-resistant, soft white winter wheat will be available to farmers this fall. Named Madsen and Hyak, these are the first U.S. varieties of soft winter wheat to resist infection by strawbreaker foot rot, the most devastating soilborne disease of wheat in the Pacific Northwest. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the new varieties could help lower farmers' production costs \$15 to \$30 an acre.

CATTLE ON FEED UP 4 PERCENT	Cattle and calves on feed on July 1, 1988, for slaughter in the 13 quarterly states totaled 8 million 990 thousand head, up 4 percent from July 1, 1987...and up 13 percent from 1986 according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The 13 states are: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, Oklahoma, S. Dakota, Texas and Washington.
CANADA'S WHEAT EXPORTS DOWN	Canadian 1988/89 wheat exports are forecast down 20 percent from 1987/88 although a contraction in global import demand could mean little loss of market share to competing exporters, including the U.S., according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. At 18 million tons, Canada's export level has not been this low since 1985/86. The low export projection reflects the prospects of a significantly reduced 1988 crop.
CHINA'S WHEAT TO DECLINE	China's 1988/89 wheat import demand was reduced by 1 million tons to a projected 12½ million, as China reacts to high world wheat prices by drawing down stockpiles. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, China's wheat import demand has been increasing during the last few years due to low world prices and expanding consumption which outpaced domestic production growth.
EXPECTED CATTLE MARKETINGS	Cattle feeders expect to market 6 million 220 thousand head of cattle during the July-September quarter of 1988, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This would be 3 percent more than the third quarter marketings in 1987 and 6 percent above 1986.
CANADA INCREASES PRODUCER PAYMENTS	The Canadian Wheat Board has announced major increases in 1988 producer payments for spring wheats, barley and oats, effective August 1, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The original levels, announced in May, were equal to the adjusted 1987 payment announced in April. This is the second year in a row that the initial payment was adjusted to encourage deliveries of grain from on-farm storage to the Wheat Board to meet export commitments.
PORK VOTE	There will be a referendum among pork producers and importers to determine whether the promotion and research program authorized by the Pork Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act of 1985 will continue. The referendum will be held nationwide on Sept. 7 and 8, with registration and voting at U.S. Department of Agriculture's Extension Service county offices. All pork producers or persons importing hogs, pork or pork products between Nov. 1, 1986 and Sept. 6, 1988 will be entitled to vote.
COTTON EXPORTS	U.S. cotton exports for May declined seasonally to 517,000 bales, 9 percent below the April level, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The cumulative August-May exports totaled 5 million 700 thousand bales. The total 1987/88 exports are estimated at 6 million 600 thousand bales. Japan, the European Community, South Korea and Taiwan are the leading markets for U.S. cotton.

FOREIGN RESIDUE
PROGRAMS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is proposing to require any foreign country exporting meat or poultry to the U.S. to obtain annual certification that its residue control program meets U.S. standards. If the country's residue control program was not certified, the country would lose its eligibility to export meat and poultry to the U.S. This proposal appeared in the July 26 Federal Register. Send comments through Sept. 26 to: Linda Carey, FSIS Hearing Clerk, Room 3171-S, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.

FROM OUR RADIO
SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1626...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) All across the country drought stricken farmers are watching crops and livestock deteriorate...along with their financial fortunes. Farmers are also visiting their local USDA offices in search of advice, information or just someone to talk to. Brenda Curtis spends a day at one County Extension Office and lets you listen in on what happens.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1614...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Drought and forward contracting; Farmland values gaining ground; Drought increases activity at local USDA offices.

CONSUMER TIME #1106...(Weekly reel of 2½-3 min features) Non-food drought effects; Sweet success; Second mortgages to repay credit card bills?; How much insurance is enough; Drought and food shopping strategy.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Thurs, Aug. 4, Drought update, Dairy product production; Fri, Aug. 5, Pacific Rim country outlook; Tues, Aug. 9, Crop/weather update; Thurs, Aug. 11, U.S. crop production, Soviet grain outlook, World ag. supply and demand; Fri, Aug. 12, Farm labor, World Ag. crop production; World oilseed situation, World cotton situation; Mon, Aug. 15, Cattle on feed, World food needs. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

FROM THE NEWS SERVICE: In addition to our normal news lines, we are offering a daily crop weather update which is changed Monday through Friday at 9 A.M. Eastern Time. The number for this report is 202-447-2545.

TELEVISION SERVICE programs, A BETTER WAY, DOWN TO EARTH, AGRICULTURAL UPDATE and SATELLITE NEWS are available on satellite Westar IV, audio 6.2 or 6.8 as follows:

Thursdays....AG UPDATE/SATELLITE NEWS, 7:30-7:45 p.m. ET.....Transponder 12D

Saturdays....A BETTER WAY, 10:00-10:30 a.m. ET.....Transponder 9X

ORIGINAL DOWN TO EARTH, 10:30-11:00 a.m. ET....Transponder 9X

UPLINK SATELLITE NEWS/AG UPDATE, 11:00-11:15 a.m. ET.....Transponder 9X

Mondays.....A BETTER WAY, 8:00-8:30 a.m. ET.....Transponder 12D

REPEAT DOWN TO EARTH, 8:30-9:00 a.m. ET....Transponder 12D

UPLINK SATELLITE NEWS/AG UPDATE, 9:00-9:15 a.m. ET.....Transponder 12D

A BETTER WAY is also available on The Learning Channel SATCOM 3R, Transponder 2, Audio 6.8 each Thursday at 10:30 a.m. ET.

OFF MIKE

Bob Bosold, WAXX, Eau Claire, writes "It's desperately dry here in western Wisconsin...We've already written off the second hay crop...." Just how bad is the drought of '88? According to Pat Keliher, retired Farm Dir. of WAXX, "Our drought in west central Wisconsin, I believe is worse than in 1934 and I was there in '34."...Orion Samuelson, WGN, Chicago, was moderator of a panel for the Agriscope Farm Policy forum that featured three who need no further introduction: Earl Butz, Bob Bergland and John Block...Jack Towers, retired USDA Radio, was a guest recently on National Public Radio, explaining how he cleans up old 78 records and makes them good as new. He had a letter from Lyle Webster, retired Director of OI, USDA, saying he heard the program while crossing Tennessee in his car...and his wife, Edith, also ex-USDA, heard the program in Hawaii.

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Small world? Jack Towers is a farmer, of sorts. He inherited a farm in South Dakota, and somebody works it for him since Jack lives in Maryland with a small back yard. He's quite pleased with the correspondence he gets from the Spink County ASCS office, which includes forms to sign, news letters with advice on programs and gossip. Jack, who used to explain farm programs on USDA Radio, now claims he doesn't understand the current ones.

Margaret T. Desatnik

MARGARET T. DESATNIK, Acting Chief
Radio and Television Division